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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We have had cattle on three different allotments in the last 15 years, two of which are in the Gunnison district. Other than during the severe drought years in the middle of the 2000's we generally believe that our allotments are left under grazed. Under grazing leads to thatch buildup, loss of plant diversity and increases fire hazards. Under grazing has been more pronounced since the aspens have been dying because the dead aspen forests have become great attractions to the cows with the advent of the lush grasses that are replacing the trees. The cows are attracted to these new and emerging grasses thereby abandoning some of the historical grazing areas. I believe that cows are probably the best fire prevention available for forest fire prevention and I would highly recommend that grazing numbers be slowly increased to a more balanced utilization rate.

Sincerely,

Rick Randall

Raco land and Cattle Co. LLLP